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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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Date: February 11, 1974

Item No.: WH #2

CIA/DCI / WHIZWH 740211

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAM--THE MILITARY SITUATION

Fighting remains light throughout most of the country, but some action continues in the western highlands. Press reports quoting a South Vietnamese spokesman indicate that the fighting in Pleiku Province has been heavy and that the Communists have taken heavy casualties. The action consists mostly of artillery exchanges but there has been some ground fighting with government air support.

It still is not clear whether this action is part of a Communist plan reported last week to step up the fighting in the highlands. It does not appear to be sufficiently intense and widespread yet to signal the start of such an upsurge, although the fighting could get heavier in the days ahead. The Communists have a substantial force in the area.

Nevertheless, government forces so far have handled the

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situation well and appear to be dishing out most of the punishment.